

## **Minutes 12 April 2011 General Meeting**

Rebekah El-Hakam, President, called the meeting to order

### **Officers present:**

- President: Rebekah El-Hakam
- Vice President: Daniel Baker
- Treasurer: Sue Bailey
- Counselor: John Geiss
- Counselor: Brian Trudeau

### **Discussion Item 1: 1901 Richmond <http://swamplot.com/third-montrose-skylane-apartment-building-turns-over/2011-03-28/>**

This property has recently sold. New owner has purchased other complexes previously owned by Skylane and has been making improvements to those properties. The new owner welcomes suggestions for improvements at this property.

### **Discussion Item 2: 1857 Richmond**

This area behind the retail shops has been identified as a high crime area. Additional lighting in the area and replacing the current wood gate with an iron 7-foot gate was proposed to increase visibility and thus deter crime in this area. The owner of the retail area has agreed to install lighting at his expense and agreed that RPCA could replace the gate. Three bids were presented ranging from \$675 to \$1400. Consensus of members present was to consider the bids from Choice Fence (\$675) and Iron Shop (\$880). We will move forward as soon as the light is in working condition.

### **Discussion Item 3: Security**

Sue Bailey provided information about neighborhood Crime Watch. Training to participate in Crime Watch is scheduled for May 24, 2011, 7 pm at 1823 Portsmouth.

### **Discussion Item 4: CIP Update**

Petitions to improve sidewalks and streets have transferred to a new division within the city, Renew Houston, but the process is similar. New applications would be strengthened with at least 75% of residential and commercial owners signing the petition, photo documentation, and our connection to major thoroughfares; however, new petitions would be expected to have a 7-year period before work began.

Also, RPCA made a public info request information about the scope of petitions submitted several years ago. Connecting to these petitions may speed up the process.

### **Discussion Item 5: Sign Toppers**

RPCA applied for sign topper approval with the City of Houston on 4 April 2011. New regulations prohibit use of the previous design. Suggestions for modification of the design are welcomed. Sign committee members are Rebekah, Cliff and Jere.

### **Discussion Item 6: Ervan Chew Park Improvements**

Improvements to drainage in the soccer field will be before city council with

expected updates to begin in June.

**Discussion Item 7: Deed Restrictions**

No updates since last meeting.

**Discussion Item 8: Minimum Lot Size 1900-200 Norfolk**

Approval of lot size is pending with City of Houston. Support of owners in this block is needed at planning commission meeting to protect the residential nature of the neighborhood. Date and time will be announced soon.

**Discussion Item 9: Remaining 2011 Calendar**

- May 10 – Potluck Social at mid-Norfolk 6-8pm
- July 12 – General Meeting 7-8pm
- October 4 – National Night Out 6-8pm
- November 15 – General Meeting 6-8pm
- Board meetings, dates and times to be announced via website and email to plan for general meetings. All members are welcome.

**Discussion Item 10: Updating Changing By-Laws**

The following summarized updates or changes to bylaws were discussed and approved (see posted by-laws for exact wording):

- Spelling of by-laws
- Purpose of RPCA
- Dues increased from \$25 (active) / \$15 (associate) to \$50 (member and associates) with a method to accept payments online. This change is effective with 2012 dues.
- Board meeting schedule
- Terms of office and limits to terms
- Members of the board of directors
- Duties of Vice President
- Responsibilities of Secretary
- Retain immediate outgoing President as Counselor
- Deed Restriction Committee membership and meetings

Additionally, changes to the nominating process for those running for RPCA board or office were discussed; however, no motion was made to vote to make this change.

**Discussion Item 11: Membership Drive**

The membership drive will coincide with flyers for the May Social. Membership dues collected as part of the drive would be a minimum donation of \$25 for 2011.

**Discussion Item 12: Fencing of portable toilet at Ervan Chew Park**

The possibility of improving the aesthetics of the portable toilet were discussed. Park Board's estimate was \$820 for installation and maintenance of a fence. Additional information will be provided at the next meeting before making a decision to continue.

Castle Court is also discussing joining us in this project.

**Discussion Item 13: Treasurer's Report**

The 2011 budget was presented and approved. RPCA member realtors graciously offered to share the cost of the sign toppers via a donation to RPCA.

The meeting was adjourned. Next event, Block party, May 10.